



CASTLEMAINE NATURALIST

SEPTEMBER 1986

#116 VOL 11-7

CASTLEMAINE FIELD NATURALISTS
CLUB INC. P.O Box 324.

Pterostylis nana
Dwarf Greenhood.

Quote in 'Habitat', June 1982

"Trees seem to do their feats so effortlessly. Every year a given tree creates absolutely from scratch 99% of its living parts. Water lifting up tree trunks can climb one hundred and fifty feet an hour; in full summer a tree can, and does, heave a ton of water every day. A big elm in a single season might make as many as six million leaves, wholly intricate, without budging an inch; I couldn't make one."

Annie Dillard, Pilgrim at Tinker Creek.

'Habitat', August 1982

In recent studies the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories compared the potency of the venom from four Australian snakes with that of three much publicised foreigners, taking as unity the venom of the Common Cobra. The King Cobra rated 0.26

the Eastern Diamond-backed Rattlesnake was 0.06,
the Common Cobra .1.

On this scale the Australian Common Tiger Snake scored 4.25,
the Taipan 7.87,
The Common Brown Snake 12.35,
the Inland Taipan 49.5.

(The others make up in quantity what they lack in quality, apparently, as Australian snakes inject far less venom than their foreign counterparts - which still isn't very comforting! Ed.)

EXCURSIONS to September 1986

Basalt (via Daylesford)
Bells Swamp
Barfold Gorge
Barkers Creek (Grant property)
Barkers Creek Reservoir
Bendigo Sewerage Ponds
Black Hill (via Kyneton)
Brisbane Ranges
Cairn Curran (Welshmans Reef)
Campbell's Creek (clay quarries)
Campbell's Creek (waterwheel)
Carisbrook (aboriginal ring)
Carman's Tunnel (Maldon)
Castlemaine (botanic gardens)
Castlemaine North (pine forest)
Chewton Bushland Settlement
Chewton (dingo farm)
Chewton/Little Bendigo
Cobaw Ranges
Coliban (springs)
Coliban Falls
Creswick (aboriginal wells)
Dargile Reserve (via Heathcote)
Devil's Kitchen (via Ballarat)
Dingo Farm (Chewton)
Drummond
Dry Diggings (Mt Franklin North)
Eppalock (glaciated pavement)
Eureka Township & The Monk
Expedition Pass
Faraday (school camp)
Firth Park (Trentham East)
Fryers Ridge
Fryers Ridge-Monk (walk)
Fryers Ridge (wildflower reserve)
Garden of St Erth (Blackwood)
Glenluce (heath myrtle area)
Glenluce springs
Glenlyon springs
Gough's Range (Tarrangower S.)
Gower School
Grampians (campout)
Green Gully - Gower (walk)
Guildford Plateau
Hamilton's Crossing (Loddon R.)
Harcourt North Reservoir
Harcourt (oak forest)
Homebush (via Maryborough)
Irishtown (Boronia patch)
Jim Crow Range
Kalimna

Kalimna Point
Kaweka Wildflower Sanctuary
Laarnacoorie/Broken Bridge
Lauriston Reservoir
Lawson's Lookout
Leitch's Ck (springs)
Lerderderg River/O'Briens Crossing

Limestone Ck (springs)
Lyall Glen (Eppalock)
Lyonville Springs
Mandurang Forest
Maldon (geology)
Maldon R.S-Castlemaine (walk)
Maldon Railway line (Maldon)
Maldon Railway Line (Walmer)
Maryborough bushland
McKay Reservoir (Chewton)
Melville Caves
Metcalfe Flora Reserve (Emberton)
Mosquito Flat (Maryborough)
Mt Alexander & Koala Park
Mt Beckworth (Clunes)
Mt Consultation (Campbell's Ck)
Mt Lofty (Redesdale)
Mt Moorul (Maldon)
Mt Tarrangower
Muckleford (block 74n)
Muckleford Forest
Muckleford Gorge
Nuggetty Range
Ocean Grove Nature Reserve
Porcupine Ridge
Redesdale (walk)
Rheola
Rise and Shine (Clydesdale)
Sailors Falls (Daylesford)
Serendip (F&W research farm)
Smiths Reef
Specimen Gully (slate quarry)
Spring Gully
Stony Creek (Upper Loddon)
Stuart Mill
Taradale - Fryerstown (walk)
Taradale (back road)
Taradale Bushland (Metcalfe Rd)
Tarlita/Schicer Gully
Tarrangower
Tarnagulla
Trentham Falls
Tipperary Springs
Turpin's Falls
Unknown Miner's Grave Gully (Cas
Vaughan (astronomy evening) N.
Vaughan - Fryerstown (geology)

Vaughan - Glenluce (walk)
Vaughan - Sailors Gully (walk)
Walmer Reserve (Muckleford Road)
Wattle Flat
Wattle Flat (walk)
Wellsford Forest (via Bendigo)
Werona/Shepherds Flat/Eganstown
Whipstick Forest (via Bendigo)
Wombat Forest
Wychitella (campout)
Yandoit (Cox property)

CLUB EXCURSIONS

The list of localities visited by the Club over the years makes an interesting list. There are now so many new members now, that perhaps some of these should be revisited. Give your suggestions about places you would like to go to to one of the committee members.

There are also some notable omissions from the list. These include

SANDON FOREST One of the interesting forests with some rare plants for the district (such as Silky Guinea Flower and Wyalong Wattle).

LAURISTON STATE FOREST Another interesting forest area, with some of the plants of the higher rainfall regions.

DENVER The peppermint forest north of Denver.

GRAVEL RESERVE on the road from the Red White and Blue mine, near Castlemaine. This is one of the closest patches of bushland on the west side of Castlemaine.

BRADFORD HILLS A place for a drive. The landscape is quite different to the usual Castlemaine landscape.

CAIRN CURRAN We have been to the east side of Cairn Curran but not to the western area.

EPPALOCK The bushland along the western side of Lake Eppalock has some species not found at Castlemaine and is worth a visit.

Mt IDA is just to the east of Heathcote and has interesting rock formations (and very interesting geology) and is an excellent wildflower area.

PINK CLIFFS, HEATHCOTE is an eroded area in the Heathcote township. A variety of rocks of greatly varying ages are exposed. Some rare plants are found here also.

REGISTER OF SIGNIFICANT TREES

The Club has received, at its request, a list of trees on the register of significant trees for the City of Castlemaine and the shires of Maldon, Metcalfe and Newstead. The list is printed below. Trees may be Classified (shown as C), or Registered (shown as R) or be trees for which submissions have been received but which have not yet been assessed (shown as NA).

Do you know of trees that should be added to the list? If so, let a member of the committee know about them. And it is desirable that we get photographs of the trees also. The committee plans to make its own list of significant trees. Sometimes a group of trees could be considered, for example, the avenue of Candlebark Gums along the Calder Highway just past Taradale.

CITY OF CASTLEMAINE

- C *Pinus torreyana* (Soledad Pine, in Castlemaine Botanic Gardens)
- C *Eucalyptus longifolia* (Woollybutt, in Castlemaine Botanic Gardens)
- C *Ulmus x sarniensis* (Guernsey/Jersey Elm, in Castlemaine Botanic Gardens)
- R *Pinus pinea* (7 Stone Pines in Castlemaine Botanic Gardens)
- C *Quercus affin robur* (in Castlemaine Botanic Gardens)
- C *Pinus sabiniana* (Digger Pine in Castlemaine Botanic Gardens)
- C *Tilia platyphyllos* (Large-leaved Lime in Castlemaine Botanic Gardens)
- C *Catalpa bignonioides* (Indian Bean Tree in Castlemaine Botanic Gardens)
- R *Platanus orientalis* (2 Oriental Planes in Castlemaine Botanic Gardens)
- R *Ulmus glabra 'Camperdownii'* (4 Camperdown Elms in Castlemaine Botanic Gardens)
- C *Acacia farnesiana* (Sweet Acacia in Castlemaine Botanic Gardens)
- NA Grey Box (Prisoner Tree in Goldsmith Crescent, western side of road reserve 100 m from Forest St)
- NA Elm Tree (Camp Reserve).
- NA Pawlonia tree (Rear National Bank, cr Forest and Barker Streets.)
- NA Bunya Bunya Pine (in garden, 29 Doveton Street)

SHIRE OF METCALFE

- NA River Red Gum (Calder Highway, in front of "Big Red Apple", at Faraday)
- NA River Red Gums (on both sides of river, "Fossway" 10 km from Kyneton on Campaspe R., near Hodges Bridge)
- R *Quercus robur* (English Oaks in Taradale Public Park, near railway bridge)
- R *Pinus sylvestris* (Scots Pine in Taradale Public Park, next to railway viaduct)

SHIRE OF MALDON

- C *Quercus robur* (2 English Oaks, Maldon Shire offices, High St)
- R *Sequoiadendron giganteum* (Giant Redwood, Recreation Reserve, next to museum)
- R *Laurus nobilis* (Bay Tree; D'Orsa's House, Sandy Creek Road)
- R *Cupressus sempervirens* (Italian Cypress, in Uniting Church garden, 8 Fountain Street Maldon)
- R *Araucaria bidwillii* (Bunya Bunya Pine, Private Garden, Templeton St.)

SHIRE OF NEWSTEAD

- C *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum, near Butter Factory, "Church Tree")

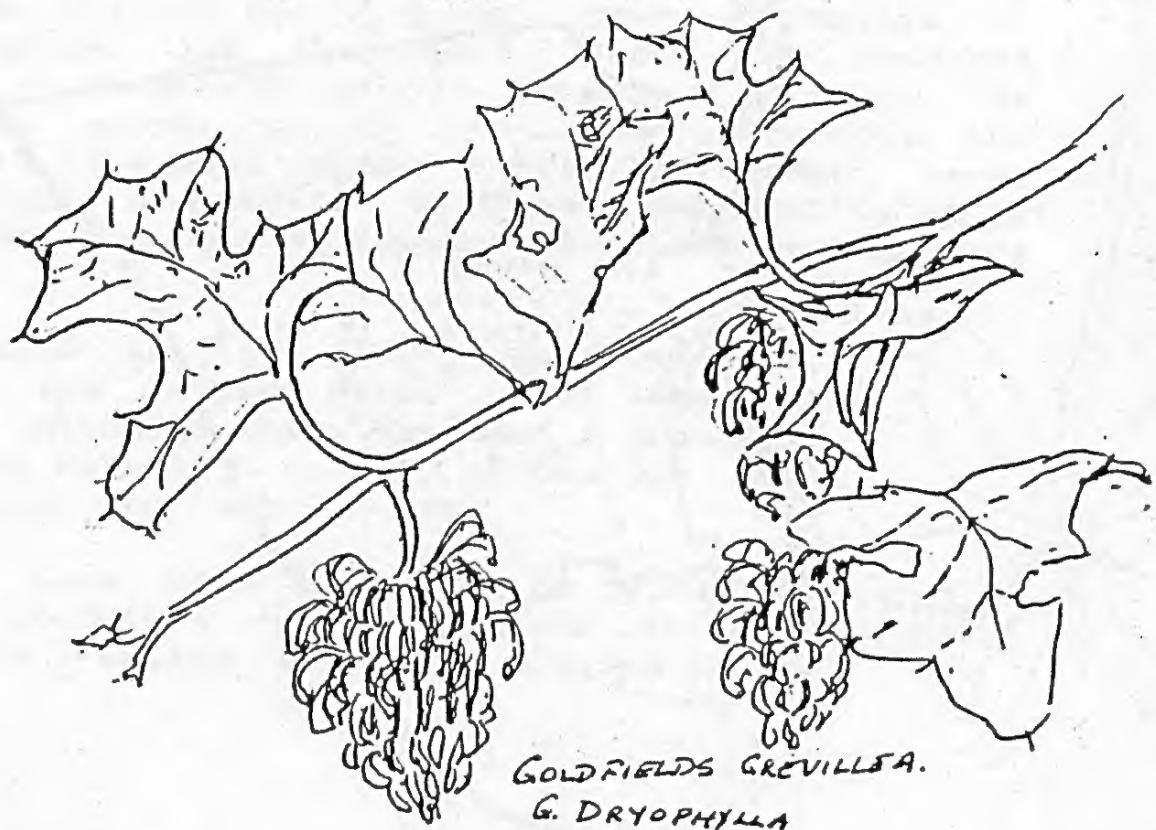
C *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum, west of Templeton Street along Fryers St, Guildford. "Guildford Gum")
NA River Red Gum ("The Flour Mill Tree"; first street on right, off Panmure St, Newstead)

EXCURSION TO WATTLE FLAT 9/8/86

We set off in spring like weather, but with the thought that we were too early in the season for a good display of wildflowers. The excursion was to the area of Wattle Flat forest to the right of the Castlemaine-Walmer road. At the meeting the night before, it was reported that an occasional Golden Wattle was in flower at Muckleford, but near Wattle Flat they were almost in full bloom, making a wonderful display.

First stop was just inside the forest, and as our eyes became accustomed to the shape and size of the orchids, more and more were found. Large areas of the bush were carpeted with leaves of Nodding Greenhoods, with some in bud and others coming into full flower. Tall greenhoods made a wonderful display, with one patch about 2 metres square having 76 specimens. Usually the Tall Greenhoods are scattered through the forest, and this would be the best patch seen by any of those on the excursion.

Next stop was to a burned area. The large flowers of Scented Sundews were common here, and in the unburned areas near by the Alpine Grevillea was flowering. Some of the forest was carpeted with moss; it was a beautiful sight with the sunshine highlighting the 'seed-cases' of the moss.



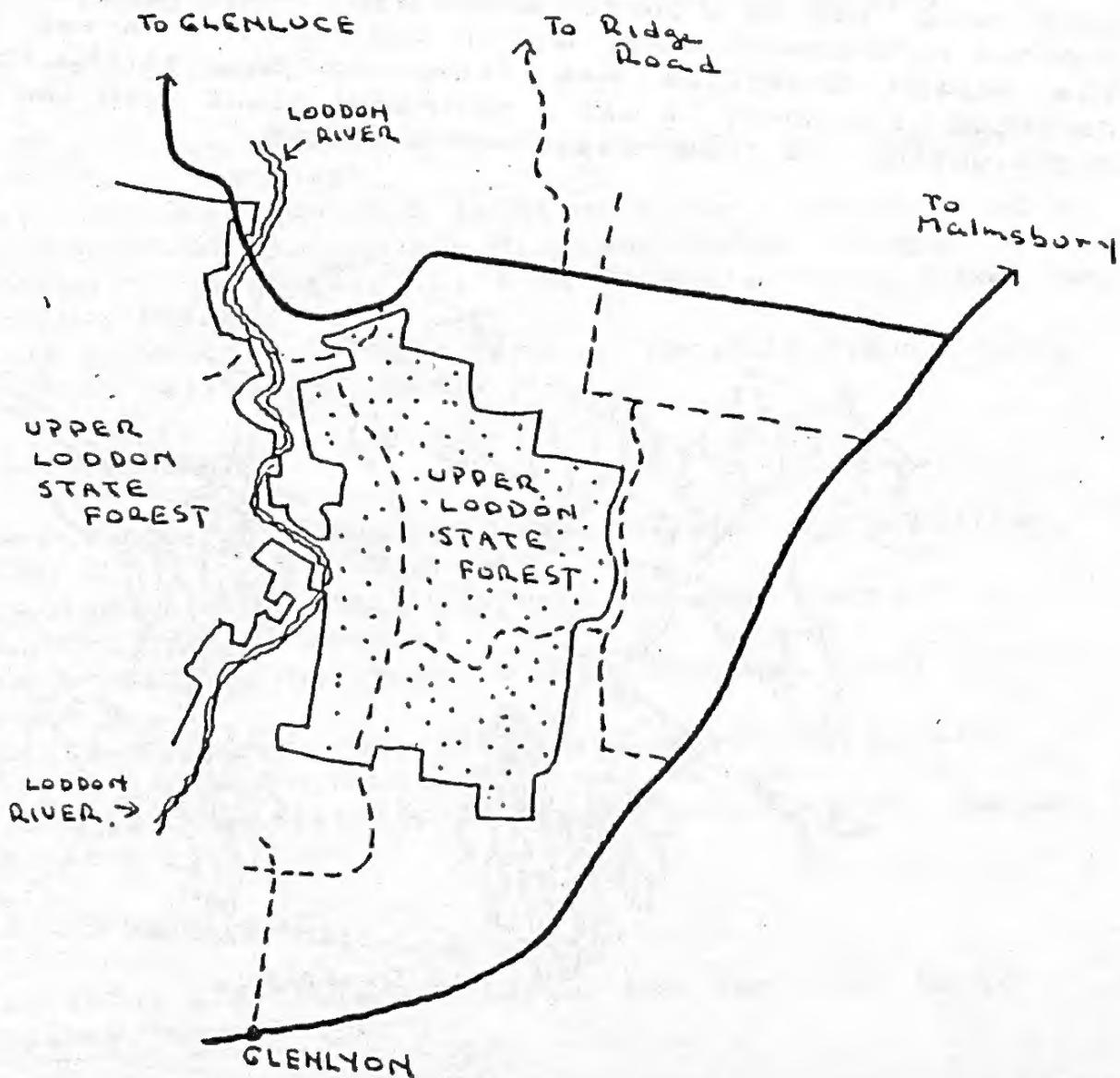
The afternoon tea spot was next to a rocky hillside. Here the Goldfields Grevillea (*G. dryophylla*) was coming into bloom. Near Castlemaine this grevillea is restricted to the Wattle Flat area. It is surprising that it is not more common as it seems to thrive here, and to be becoming more common in the forest. Further up the hillside was a mass of Dusty Miller in full bloom. This is also a rare plant in the Castlemaine District, and at this location is thriving; there must be many more bushes here than a few years ago.

Other plants seen in flower were Hardenbergia, Yellow Star, Chickweed (*Stellaria media*), Gorse Bitter-pea, Wax Flower, Spreading Wattle and Hovea. Tetratheca was close to flowering and many bushes were covered with masses of buds.

ALL DAY WALK - LOCALITY FOR 4/10/96.

The dotted portion of the map shows the portion of the Upper Loddon Forest that we plan to explore during the all day walk on Saturday 4th October.

Walkers will need to carry lunch. See the back page for meeting times etc.



OBSERVATIONS FOR AUGUST

EARLY SPRING FLOWERINGS were reported by several members for the meeting on Aug 8th. These included Mosquito Orchids in bud at the base of rocks at Castlemaine North, as well as some tall Nodding Greenhoods. Also in this area are Hardenbergia, two Golden Wattles, a solitary Tetratheca and a scrap of Gorse Bitter-pea.

Greenhoods were also seen at The Monk, as well as Heath. Other flowers seen were Early Nancies on granite country near Maldon, and Golden Wattle and Gorse Bitter-pea at Muckleford. Near the High School Common Hovea and Urn Heath are in flower. Wax-flowers are also in flower near Chewton.

BABY WOMBAT Berri Perry said that she is now caring for a 4 kg wombat, that is proving to be affectionate and playful. It seems to be completely at home, and plays like a puppy or kitten.

RUBY SALT BUSH A pressed specimen from the Whipstick was on display. It is a shrublet to about 10 cm with fine grey leaves, and has bright red berries, which dry to a black colour. It has possibly been seen along the highway through the Muckleford Forest; if so this is a new plant record for the district.

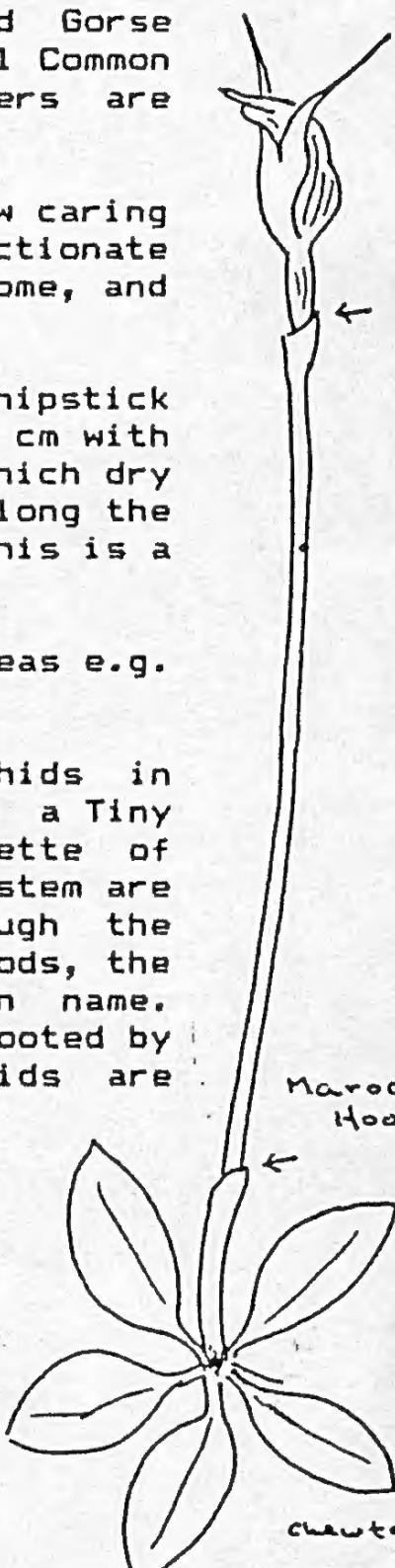
PALLID CUCKOOS have been seen in several areas e.g. Muckleford.

MAROON HOOD Beth Ibbetson has Marron Hood orchids in flower at Chewton. These are rather like a Tiny Greenhood, but are taller. They have a rosette of basal leaves, and the leaves along the stem are truncate (i.e. almost cut off square). Although the flower is mostly green like other greenhoods, the upper part is a dark colour, hence the common name. Plants need protection to prevent being uprooted by birds. This may help to explain why these orchids are uncommon.

BELLS SWAMP is still almost empty of water, and only the deeper holes have water at present. Although there has been a good deal of soaking rain this season, it has not been heavy enough for much run off.

ECHIDNAS have been reported to be much in evidence in Muckleford Forest, and in many areas the results of their digging can be seen.

M. Dunne
+ EP.



CASTLEMAINE F.N.C. AGENDA

Excursions leave promptly at the times shown. Date, time and locality of excursions may be changed at the monthly meetings, so if not at the meeting check with a committee member.
Monthly meetings at High School, Lawson Pde. Room 309 at 8.00 p.m.

Fri 12th Sept. BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA with Dr Pat Bingham. 8.00 p.m at High School.

Sat 13th Sept. SMITH'S REEF WILDFLOWERS AND BIRDS. Meet S.E.C., Mostyn St at 1.30 p.m.

Sun 21th Sept LYAL GLEN. Excursion to Ipsen's, Lyal Glen with Bird Observers Club.. Meet at S.E.C., Mostyn St at 9.15 a.m.

Sat 27th Sept. BENDIGO WHIPSTICK. We join the Bird Observers Club campout at the Whipstick for the day. Meet 27 Doveton St at 8.30 a.m.

Sat 4th Oct. UPPER LODDON FOREST. All day walk to in the Upper Loddon State Forest. Meet at 27 Doveton St at 9.15 a.m. This is an all day walk through bushland; it may be rugged walking. An alternative is to spend the day bird watching near the start/finish area. See separate article for locality map.

Fri 10th Oct. GALAPAGOS and INCA RUINS with Joh. Zwar.

Sat 11th Oct. TARADALE BUSHLAND. Wildflowers and birds. Leave SEC at 1.30. Leader is Mrs R. Mills.

Sun 12 Oct. SALOMON GULLY & JACKASS FLAT with Bendigo and Maryborough F.N.C. Leave SEC at 9.25 or Salomon Gully at 10.00. Picnic lunch.

Fri-Sun 17-19 Oct MARYBOROUGH CAMPOUT with W.V.F.N.C.A. Dr Jim Willis will be speaker on the Saturday evening. The program starts with a slide showing on Friday evening, excursions on the Sturday and Sunday. Keep the weekend free.

Sat 1 & 8th Nov MUCKLEFORD FOREST. Festival excursions, leave Railway Goods Sheds, Kennedy St at 1.30.

Fri 14 Nov. FLINDERS RANGES with G. Leibl.

Fri 12 Dec. MEMBERS AND VISITORS NIGHT.

CASTLEMAINE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INC. BOX 324 CASTLEMAINE.

COMMITTEE Ern Perkins(Pres), Barbara Maund(Sec), Geoff Sitch(Treas), Maggie Oliver(Vice Pres), Kaye Turner(Exc. sec), George Broadway(Libr), Rita Mills(Newsletter), Gunter Liebl, Margaret Dunne, Elma Kelly, Jack Dare(I/P Pres), Berri Perry.